1. (Currently amended) A compact, fiber reinforced rod for optical cables comprising:

a plurality of elongated fiber members encased in a matrix of a UV cured vinyl ester resin material; and

an outer topcoat layer substantially surrounding said matrix, said outer topcoat layer comprised of a thermoplastic hot melt resin of polybutylene terephthalate and polyether glycol copolymer material.

2. (Original) The reinforced rod of claim 1, wherein said elongated fiber members comprises an E-type glass fiber member.

3. (Original) The reinforced rod of claim 1, wherein said elongated fiber members comprises an S-type glass fiber member.

4. (Original) The reinforced rod of claim 1, wherein said elongated fiber members are selected from the group consisting of E-type glass fiber members, an S-type glass fiber members, and combinations thereof.

5. (Original) The reinforced rod of claim 1, wherein said elongated fiber members are selected from the group consisting of E-type glass fiber members, S-type glass fiber members, high strength synthetic strands of poly(p-phenylene-2,6-benzobisoxazole) fiber members, and combinations thereof.

6. (Currently amended) The reinforced rod of claim 1, wherein said UV cured vinyl ester resin material is selected from the group consisting of ~~Vinch 500~~ novolac vinyl ester and 1,6 hexane diol diacrylate copolymer material and ~~17-41B UV cured vinyl ester resin, both manufactured by Zeon Technologies~~ novolac vinyl ester and dipropylene glycol diacrylate copolymer material.

7. (Currently cancelled)

8. (Currently cancelled)

9 - 22. (Previously cancelled)

23. (Previously presented) The reinforced rod of claim 1, wherein said plurality of fibers comprising:

a plurality of E-type glass roving fibers; and

a plurality of S-type glass roving fibers.

24. (Previously presented) The reinforced rod of claim 23, wherein said plurality of fibers further comprises a plurality of high strength synthetic strand members.

25. (Previously presented) The reinforced rod of claim 23, wherein said plurality of fibers further comprises a plurality of high strength aramid strands.

26. (Previously presented) The reinforced rod of claim 24, wherein said plurality of fibers further comprises a plurality of polyphenylene terephthalate strand members.

27. (Previously presented) The reinforced rod of claim 1, wherein said plurality of fibers comprises:

a plurality of E-type glass roving fibers;

a plurality of S-type glass roving fibers; and

a plurality of high strength aramid strands.

28. (Previously presented) The reinforced rod of claim 1, wherein said plurality of fibers comprises:

a plurality of E-type glass roving fibers;

a plurality of S-type glass roving fibers; and

a plurality of high strength polyphenylene terephthalate strands.